



**BRIDGE OF HISTORY**

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December 8, 2004

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Christmas Comes Early For International Bridge**

Traffic is on the rise at the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge!

The International Bridge Administration today proudly announced that one-way traffic crossings totaled 137,765 for the month of November, 2004. This represents an increase of 2.47% as compared to November, 2003.

In November 2004, the IBA tallied approximately 6,000 more crossings as compared to one year ago. Frequent users of the bridge have increased 10% and commercial truck traffic is up by 9.8%.

Even though overall traffic for the calendar year is down slightly from 2003, these current statistics provide a basis for anticipating heavier traffic volumes in the near future.

Traffic statistics for the month are as follows:

| <i><b>Vehicle<br/>Classification</b></i> | <i><b>One-Way<br/>Crossings</b></i> | <i><b>Change from<br/>November, 2003</b></i> | <i><b>Percent of<br/>Total<br/>Crossings</b></i> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <i><b>Full-Fare Passenger Cars:</b></i>  | 59,330                              | -5.2%  | 43.1%  |
| <i><b>Commuter Fare:</b></i>             | 65,869                              | 10.0%  | 47.8%  |
| <i><b>Car Pulling Trailers</b></i>       | 1,681                               | -19.5%                                       | 1.2%   |
| <i><b>Commercial Trucks:</b></i>         | 10,885                              | 9.8%   | 7.9%   |
| <i><b>Totals:</b></i>                    | 137,765                             |  | 100%   |

March, April and now November are the only months in 2004 to show traffic increases compared to last year.

REPLY TO: PHILLIP M. BECKER, P.E., GENERAL MANAGER

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The biggest changing traffic categories for the month included frequent crossers with an additional 5,982 crossings. Leading the positive traffic with the highest percentage changes were: commercial vehicles with 4 axles of 165.7%; 11 axles of 63%; and 10 axle trucks with 30%. The greatest decrease noted was 7 axle commercial vehicles, down 28%.

Traffic for calendar year 2004 has totaled 1,716,696 vehicles which represents a decrease of 2.6% as compared to 2003. Since the bridge opened in 1962, over 76,850,000 vehicles have crossed the structure.

Watch for further encouraging IQ Card information later this week.

Wishing you a safe, happy, and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

***International Bridge Administration***

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phillip M. Becker", written in a cursive style.

Phillip M. Becker, P.E.  
General Manager